

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00361 210814Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6284
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

S E C R E T BELIZE 0361

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BH, UK, US
SUBJECT: WELCOME BREAKTHROUGH IN NARCOTICS CONTROL

1. IN THE PAST, US NARCOTICS CONTROL AGENTS HAVE BEEN
STYMIED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO WORK IN BELIZE BY THE STUBBORN
INSISTANCE OF THE GOVERNOR THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES BE REPORTED
TO THE BOG AND, MORE UNFORTUNATELY, TO THE HOME MINISTER,
MR. ROGERS. IN DRAMATIC REVERSAL OF THIS POSITION, MCENTEE
JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE PREVIOUS PRINCIPAL OFFICER PROPOSED
A NEW PROCEDURE.

2. UNDER THE NEW GROUND RULES, US DEA OFFICIALS WILL PASS
INFORMATION, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RELATED MATTERS
TO THE RPRINCIPAL OFFICER HERE WHO WIPL, IN TURN, PASS THEM
TO GOVERNOR. MCENTEE THEN WILL RESPOND DIRECTLY IF
HE CAN OR WILL FORWARD THEM TO POLICE COMMISSIONER WILLOUGHBY
FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

3. NEITHER WE NOR DEA AGENTS IN GUATEMALA CITY WOULD
PRETEND THIS IS THE IDEAL SOLUTION TO WHAT HAS BEEN A
VEXATIOUS PROBLEM. WE BOTH AGREE THAT IT IS, HOWEVER,
A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER WHAT HAD BEEN OBTAINED EARLIER.

4. DRAWBACKS ARE: MANY LAYERS OF OFFICIALDOM INVOLVED,
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AND POSSIBILITY ROGERS MAY GET WIND OF WHAT WE ARE DOING
AND HIT THE ROOF. ROLE OF WILLOUGHBY WILL BE CRITICAL;
IN PAST, HE HAS BEEN A LAW MAN WHOSE RELATION-
SHIP TO ROGERS SEEMS STRICTLY PROFESSIONAL. MCENTEE FEELS,
THEREFORE, POLICE COMMISSIONER WILL NOT COMPROMISE THIS
NEW SYSTEM. DEA GUATEMALA WELLINGTO TRY SYSTEM - IN FACT
ARE PLEASED WITH IT, AS ARE WE.

5. WE ARE, AS WELL, INTERESTED IN MCENTEE'S MOTIVATIONS.
IS THIS NEW ATTITUDE BASED ONLY ON DESIRE STAMP OUT NARCOTICS
TRAFFIC? OR IS HE TRYING BUILD UP A LINE OF CREDIT WITH US
TO BE CALLED IN ON OTHER MATTERS?

6. THIS NEW SYSTEM WILL CALL FOR CAREFUL COORDINATION
BETWEEN DEA, GUATEMALA CITY AND THIS OFFICE. I AM CONVINCED
THAT DEA OFFICIALS IN GUATEMALA ARE PREPARED AND WILLING
TO TAKE THE EXTRA STEPS NEEDED AND I HOPE THAT APPROPRIATE
OFFICES IN DEPT CAN IMPRESS UPON DEA WASHINGTON THE IMPORTANCE
OF STAYING WITHIN CHANNELS SO AS NOT TO JEEPERDIZE ARRENGEMENTS.
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